

VZCZCXR06726

PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHKUK RUEHLZ RUEHROV
DE RUEHLB #1468 2680807
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 250807Z SEP 07
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9489
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 1617
RHMFIS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 001468

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

NSC FOR ABRAMS/SINGH/GAVITO/HARDING/DEMOPULOS, STATE FOR
NEA/ELA, NEA/FO:KHARRINGTON, MPOPAL,

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ENIV LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: APPLICATION FOR OPIC FINANCE: LEBANESE
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

REF: STATE 123573

¶1. (SBU) Post has no objection to the proposed \$75 million guaranty for an investment in the Lebanese American University (LAU) proposed by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in reftel. Post has previously investigated LAU with regard to OPIC insurance.

¶2. (U) As per reftel request for demographics for higher education in Lebanon, enrollment figures for the top eleven institutions of higher education in Lebanon are as follows:

INSTITUTION	2005-06	2006-07
American University of Beirut (AUB)	7,313	7,068
Lebanese American University (LAU)	6,303	6,321
Haigazian University (HU)	799	742
Lebanese University (LU)	70,627	71,210
St. Joseph University (USJ)	9,718	11,500
Notre Dame University (NDU)	4,453	4,867
University of Balamand (UOB)	3,019	3,099
Beirut Arab University (BAU)	16,582	16,684
Sagesse University	2,050	2,500
Islamic University of Lebanon (IUL)	3,000	3,500
Antonine University	1,120	1,200

LAU enrollment, as provided by the school, was 46 percent female in 2005-06 and 44 percent female in 2006-07. Total enrollment in all universities increased by 3 percent in 2006-07.

¶3. (SBU) Regarding local development and community programs, LAU has a Center for Research and Development (CDR)

established under a grant from USAID Lebanon in 1998. This center organizes numerous conferences on subjects such as public relations, community skills, strategic planning and management techniques. LAU also conducts studies and environmental programs on air quality management in urban and industrial areas. These programs continue to analyze the statistical validity of existing air pollution database information to develop optimal long-term air pollution monitoring programs. LAU carries out health impact analysis, investigates air quality management alternatives and public policy choices, and analyzes costs and benefits of alternative policy options to reduce air pollution. LAU also offers workshops to present and discuss the findings of the studies and to launch action plans with interested parties.

¶4. (SBU) In response to a previous request from OPIC (e-mail exchange), Post examined available information regarding the Board of Directors of LAU, with the finding of no adverse information. This includes further due diligence on two members: Mohammad Safadi and Gilbert Chagoury. No further action was deemed necessary.

FELTMAN